

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 06366 180908Z

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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 1193

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 6366

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FOR EAGLEBURGER FROM SEELYE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: APER

SUBJECT: EMBASSY STAFFING

1. I UNDERSTAND HILARY CUNNINGHAM'S WIFE IS CONSIDERABLY UPSET WITH THE PROSPECT OF HIS STAYING ON IN BEIRUT AFTER THE EVACUATION AND IS TAKING THE CASE TO CONGRESS. OUR REASON FOR SELECTING CUNNINGHAM IS SIMEPLE. HE HAS BEEN HERE FOR OVER A YEAR AS BUDGET OFFICER AND, DURING THE LAST FEW MONTHS, HE HAS ALSO WORKED PERSONNEL AND GENERAL SERVICES. MOREOVER, HE HAS SOME EXPERIENCE IN THE CONSULAR FIELD. FROM A PURELY PRACTICAL POINT OF VIEW, HE IS THE BEST QUALIFIED FOR THE COMBINED ADMINISTRATIVE-CONSULAR JOB AND HE HAS EXPRESSED A WILLINGNESS TO STAY ON PROVIDING WE CAN GET HIM OUT IN MID-AUGUST.

2. IN ORDER, HOWEVER, TO EASE PRESSURES ON DEPT WE ARE PREPARED TO HAVE JIM WALSH STAY IN HIS PLACE. JIM IS ON TDY, WANTS BADLY TO STAY, AND IS AN EXCELLENT ALL-AROUND OFFICER. HIS CONSULAR EXPERIENCE IS LESS THAN CUNNINGHAM'S AND HE HAS NO EXPERIENCE IN BUDGET THOUGH THE LOCALS ARE GOOD AND WE DO NOT BELIEVE THIS WOULD BE SERIOUS PROBLEM.

3. PLEASE ADVISE SOONEST IF YOU AGREE THAT WE SHOULD RETAIN
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JIM WALSH. WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE YOUR ASSISTANCE IN HAVING THE

PERSONNEL PEOPLE FIND US A GOOD MIDDLE GRADE OFFICER WITH
B&F AND CONSULAR EXPERIENCE WHO CAN EVENTUALLY FILL THIS IMPORTANT
JOB. THIS OFFICER SHOULD ARRIVE IN BEIRUT IN 30 DAYS REGARDLESS OF
FINAL DECISION ON WHETHER WALSH OR CUNNINGHAM STAYS.
SEELYE

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